

HONORING ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL  
IN ORLAND PARK FOR BEING  
NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Michael School, an exemplary Catholic elementary school in Orland Park, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2013 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, The Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. I am proud that St. Michael School in Orland Park in my district has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

Since first opening its doors in 1949, St. Michael has been serving the community of Orland Park by providing a diverse, challenging curriculum that emphasizes academics, moral values, and discipline. The mission of St. Michael School has always been to provide students with a learning environment that will reinforce the principles and values of Church, home, and community in an effort to prepare them for lifelong and responsible citizenship.

Today, St. Michael School offers programs from preschool through eighth grade and attracts students from Orland Park and surrounding communities, currently enrolling more than 600 students. As a proud graduate of Catholic schools, I understand the rigorous and engaging curriculum that emphasizes Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Technology, Language Arts, and Religion. St. Michael's offers challenging educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student.

Last year I had the pleasure of visiting St. Michael School during Catholic Schools Week. I enjoyed touring the school and visiting with students, and I came away very impressed with the students, teachers, and administrators under the leadership of Principal Bernadette Cuttone. It made perfect sense to me when St. Michael's was chosen as one of only 50 private schools nationwide that received a National Blue Ribbon School Award. Everyone at the school and in the parish should be extremely proud.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. Michael School and all the National Blue Ribbon award winners. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can serve as an inspiration for schools across the nation.

CONGRATULATING WQPT-TV IN  
THE QUAD CITIES ON THEIR 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate WQPT-TV, the Quad-Cities PBS

station, on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary.

WQPT launched on Nov. 3, 1983 with only four hours of programming each weekday. With support from local leaders, including former Representative Lane Evans, area colleges and universities, and many dedicated volunteers, WQPT has grown into a station that provides excellent programs on its main and secondary channels 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. WQPT has formed a great partnership with Western Illinois University Quad-Cities, allowing staff to collaborate with students and faculty, speak regularly to classes and engage with the community. Additionally, as part of its educational mission, WQPT's "Ready to Learn Initiative" has donated 123,000 books to area students since 1995.

Before WQPT launched 30 years ago, the Quad-Cities area was the largest metro area in the country without a PBS station. WQPT still has one of the smallest staffs and budgets out of all stations in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting network, yet manages to provide locally relevant, award-winning programs for everyone in the region. These awards include an Emmy nomination, two CINE Golden Eagle Awards, the PBS Sterling Award and a Grassroots Advocacy Award from the National Friends of Public Broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate WQPT-TV for reaching this milestone, and I thank them for their 30 years of service to our community.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOR-  
TIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PAYNE-PULLMAN SCHOOL OF  
TRADE AND COMMERCE IN DE-  
TROIT, MICHIGAN

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff, students and alumni of the Payne-Pulliam School of Trade and Commerce in Detroit as they gather to celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary of service to the community.

In 1973, Reverend Betty E. Pulliam and Ms. Freddie M. Lindsey-Payne recognized a growing need in their community—an educational institution whose focus was to provide its students with employment-ready knowledge and skills. In response to this need, Reverend Pulliam and Ms. Lindsey-Payne founded the Payne-Pulliam School which offered a business education in a small class with an individualized learning environment.

As the educational needs of the Greater Detroit community have changed over the last four decades, the Payne-Pulliam School has adapted to meet that demand. Today Payne-Pulliam offers its students assistance with GED preparation, job readiness education and personal development classes. The focus of its dedicated education professionals is to aid their students in their journey to rebuild themselves and their skills. As part of this commitment, Payne-Pulliam provides its students with extensive support in job placement, counseling and training. In 1997, the leadership of the Payne-Pulliam school furthered this commitment by partnering with Michigan Works and

the City of Detroit Employment and Training Department.

Each year, as part of its community outreach initiatives, the Payne-Pulliam School hosts its annual Door Opener's Awards event, where students, alumni, educators and community stakeholders come together to recognize individuals who have assisted the School in its mission to provide important education and skills development to the residents of the Greater Detroit region. It is fitting that in this milestone year for the Payne-Pulliam School its founders will be recognized as Door Openers—for their decades of dedication as professional educators and leaders in the endeavor to make education available to all the residents of Southeast Michigan. For both Reverend Pulliam and Ms. Lindsey-Payne, their commitment to education extends far beyond their work at their school as they have been leaders in many other community organizations that are working to increase the accessibility to education in the Greater Detroit region.

Mr. Speaker, access to a quality education is a central component in the continuing success of the Greater Detroit region and other communities across our nation. I congratulate Reverend Pulliam and Ms. Lindsey-Payne on this great milestone in the history of the Payne-Pulliam School of Trade and Commerce and I congratulate its staff, students and alumni on their continuing efforts to ensure that the future of Michigan remains bright.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.  
RES. 402

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Reps. SANDY LEVIN and JIM GERLACH in rising today to support the passage of H. Res. 402, supporting the European aspirations of the people of the European Union's (EU) Eastern Partnership countries, and to express continued support for Ukraine as it moves closer to signing the EU Association Agreement.

In order for Ukraine to progress democratically and economically, it is imperative that the conditions of this agreement, as jointly initiated by the EU and Ukraine, are fully met—in law and in practice.

The critical November 28–29 Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania is quickly approaching, bringing with it the deadline for signing the Association Agreement. Accordingly, we urge the U.S. Department of State to advance all appropriate opportunities for cooperation with Ukraine to address the remaining required reforms, including electoral and rule of law reforms as well as issues related to selective justice, particularly the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Along with the clear democratic and economic benefits, we believe these reforms, coupled with international monitoring and oversight, provide the best opportunity to ensure free and fair elections in Ukraine in 2015 and beyond.

Consistent with our support for H. Res. 402, we applaud the EU's progress—much of it